

# Catholic Church of the Presentation - Montana

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## The Priest is not his own

The Easter Triduum begins with the liturgy of Holy Thursday by focusing on three main mysteries: The Holy Eucharist, the Sacred priesthood and the Commandment of fraternal love.

It is important to highlight the foundation of these three in the book of Numbers 35. God instructed Moses that if anyone accidentally kills somebody, they could flee to the city of refuge which belonged to the priestly people known as the Levites. The person seeking refuge had to stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. All who have sinned need the high priest who has to die in order to set them free.

We need the priesthood of Jesus without which we cannot be saved. It is not a coincidence that we have to flee the virus to our homes (our city of refuge) where God is with us. The sacrament of baptism brings us into the city of refuge (the Church) where Jesus dies at every mass during consecration to set us free. The Fathers of the Church count the three days and three nights of his death and resurrection from the first mass of Jesus with his disciples. Jesus had to die to become the bread of life so that all who partake of the divine banquet might live forever.

At mass we re-offer the sacrifice offered by Jesus on the cross. This sacrifice gives the Latin word for priest (*sacerdos*) its true meaning (giver of holy things). Jesus stoops low to give us holy things by washing the feet of his disciples. He lays aside his heavenly garments and embraces his place up on the cross to show us that the priest is not his own. Refusing to have our feet washed means we are not ready to wash the feet of someone lower in status to us. The lessons of humility are often humiliating in themselves. Our world needs more givers of holy things than ever before.

Dear parishioners, as we celebrate the memorial of the last supper tonight may we all be mindful of Jesus opening to us his heart; the door of refuge. May we come in and stay until he rises from the dead.

Have a blessed Holy Thursday.

Fr Sam Madza SMA

## THURSDAY OF THE LORDS SUPPER

For many of us this will be the first Sacred Triduum in living memory during which we are unable to gather and pray together. So how do we respond on Holy Thursday?

Let us use this time to reflect upon what we would be doing in our tradition when we celebrate evening Mass with remembrance of the **Supper**. A special light is cast upon the Lord's example in **washing the feet** of his disciples and Paul's account of the institution of the Christian Passover in the Eucharist.

A time for **Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament** at the **Place of Repose** created away from the Church itself, would be our time to venerate Jesus who was placed in a tomb following the crucifixion and in which he remained for some forty hours. This is an austere solemn conservation of the Body of Christ for the community of the faithful. We would **"watch and pray"** in silent and prolonged adoration of the wondrous sacrament instituted by Jesus on this day.

### How can we commemorate Holy Thursday as a family at home?

- Create a quiet space of prayer in our home with a table and Crucifix and lighted candle.
- Read the Collect prayer for Holy Thursday from your missal.
- Begin by reading the evening's Gospel passage (Jn 13:1-15)
- Wash one another's feet in a simple way that would help us to recall the Lord's Holy Thursday mandate to love one another as he has loved us. If you are alone, wash your own feet and forgive yourself your weakness.
- Conclude with a simple meal.
- Families could go out to a quiet place in the garden and in the company of a lighted candle spend quiet time in watching and praying.

### Suggestions for participating in Holy Week Liturgy during this time of lockdown

- **Radio Veritas** : 576AM and on DSTV Audio Channel 870 Live Streaming: [www.radioveritas.co.za](http://www.radioveritas.co.za)
- Jesuit Institute: [www.jesuitinstitute.org.za](http://www.jesuitinstitute.org.za) **Live Streaming**, Holy Thursday at 18h00, Good Friday at 15h00 and Easter Sunday at 09h00
- "Catholic Mass Today" from Ontario Canada : [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

### Let us pray this Thursday:

That in this time of great trial we may receive the grace to follow, in our own special way. the symbolic example of service to others given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Parish Bank Account for regular pledges and EFT :** Bank: Standard Bank, Montana Kolonnade Beneficiary: THE CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION  
Account number: 013157108 Reference : Allocated Pledge number or anonymous if preferred.